

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites**  
**4097 Albany Post Road**  
**Hyde Park, NY 12538**

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site  
So You Want to Get Married in the Italian Gardens!

1. Small informal weddings involving 30 people or less can be permitted in the Italian Gardens area of the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. Keep in mind that this is a public park and having a permit does not constitute an exclusive right or use of this area. Park visitors may wander into or through the area of your wedding.
2. The fee you pay for this permit is an administrative fee collected to help manage this program and to monitor your event. The non-refundable permit application fee is \$200. Complete the Application to Conduct a Wedding, include a check for \$200 made out to the "National Park Service", and mail it to the park at least one week prior to the requested event date. If your permit is not approved you will receive your returned check with the denial letter.
3. Equipment and/or noise could interrupt the enjoyment of other park visitors. During your wedding, the following are not allowed:
  - ❑ Chairs, tents, canopies, ropes, stanchions, or amplifiers
4. No food of any kind, including rice or birdseed, may be used as part of the ceremony. Balloons or live animals may not be released as part of the ceremony.
5. Summer storms can arrive quickly, keep in mind that there is little shelter at the Gardens in the event of bad weather. Umbrellas might be a good idea.
6. Road width and parking space limit the number of vehicles allowed to drive into the Italian Gardens parking area. The road is one vehicle wide and is a two way road:
  - ❑ With your permit, a total of five vehicles are allowed to drive into the grass parking area at the rear of the Italian Gardens. The five vehicles include the wedding party, minister, photographer, any disabled guests, etc.
  - ❑ All other vehicles must park in the public parking lot at the Visitor Center and walk  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile to the Gardens.
  - ❑ **Limousines** are allowed but **only** six passenger or smaller limos are allowed to drive to the parking area at the rear of the Gardens. Larger limos must park in the public parking lot. Please note - traffic and congestion mean that it is impossible to stop on the main road to unload passengers. If you arrive in a limo larger than 6 passenger you will have to park in the public parking lot and walk  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile to the Gardens.
  - ❑ Any vehicle parked illegally will be moved, ticketed, and/or towed.

7. We allow weddings any day of the week with the following exceptions:
  - ❑ Saturday's and Sunday's - no weddings prior to 1 pm
  - ❑ Wednesday/summer concert nights - weddings allowed up to 4 pm
  - ❑ No weddings on October weekends or on the Columbus Day holiday
  - ❑ Other dates with special events in the park may be blacked out
8. Note: There are no bathroom facilities at the Italian Gardens, the only bathrooms are in the Visitor Center – open 9 am until 5 pm – plan ahead!
9. A reminder - you'll receive a copy of the approved permit, you should bring it with you on the day of the event.

What you get with your permit: A non-exclusive right to get married at the Italian Gardens, private parking for a maximum of five vehicles (including limos) at the rear of the Gardens (but no limos larger than 6 passenger), and the assistance of a uniformed ranger (notwithstanding emergencies) who will monitor the event.

For requests to take wedding photographs in the park (but not for a wedding) call the Ranger Station at (845) 229-9380.